

d) facilitating steps a), b) and c) by a programmed computer; and

e) maintaining the condition of the collectibles during steps a), b) and c), whereby the allocated collectibles are of the predetermined condition and the issuer may guarantee the condition of the allocated collectibles.

72. (New) The method of managing an offering of collectibles for sale as claimed in claim 71, therein is further included the step of determining whether the number of ordered collectibles exceeds the predetermined number of offered collectibles and, if so, allocating the predetermined number of offered collectibles among the ordering purchasers.

73. (New) A server designed to support an initial offering by an issuer of collectibles of a limited number of the collectibles via a plurality of remote terminals, each remote terminal operable by a potential purchaser to transmit over a network to said server at least one order for the purchase of collectibles being offered for sale, each of the collectibles having an uncirculated condition, said server having a memory and being programmed to:

a) store in said memory an indication of the predetermined condition of each of, the price of each of and the limited number of the collectibles;

b) transmit to the plurality of remote terminals at least one offer for sale of the limited number of collectibles, the one offer having an indication of the predetermined condition of the one collectible, whereby at least first and second potential purchasers are enabled to actuate its remote terminal to transmit at least first and second orders for the one collectible to said server; and

c) process the transmitted first and second orders to allocate at least one of the limited number of collectibles among selected of the first and second potential purchasers and create for the successful purchaser of the one collectible a record in said memory for the collectibles allocated to the successful purchaser.

74. (New) The server as claimed in claim 73, wherein the collectibles comprise trading cards.

75. (New) The server as claimed in claim 73, wherein each of the collectibles with the condition comprises a trading card in mint condition.

76. (New) The server as claimed in claim 73, wherein each of the collectibles with the condition comprises uncirculated trading cards.

77. (New) A method of offering for sale collectibles of a predetermined condition on a primary market and on a secondary market, said method comprising the steps of:

a) offering for sale to one or more prospective purchasers an initial placement of one or more selected collectibles on the primary market;

b) receiving orders from prospective purchasers on selected of the collectibles and allocating the one or more selected collectibles to one or more of the successful purchasers;

c) offering for sale at the direction of the one successful purchaser selected of the allocated collectibles on a secondary market; and

d) maintaining the predetermined condition of the collectibles during steps a), b) and c), whereby the allocated collectibles are of the predetermined condition; and

e) facilitating at least steps a), b) and c) by a programmed computer.

78. (New) The method of offering for sale collectibles as claimed in claim 77, further including the step of limiting the number of collectibles of one kind to be offered for sale on the primary market.

79. (New) The method of offering for sale collectibles as claimed in claim 77, wherein the collectibles comprise trading cards.

80. (New) The method of offering for sale collectibles as claimed in claim 77, wherein said offering for sale on the primary market is carried out for a selected, predetermined period of time.

81. (New) The method of offering for sale collectibles as claimed in claim 77, further including the step of predetermining said number of collectibles to be offered for sale on the primary market before said step a) of offering for sale on said primary market begins.

82. (New) The method of offering for sale collectibles as claimed in claim 81, wherein said step of allocating counts the number of collectibles for which orders have been placed.

83. (New) The method of offering for sale collectibles as claimed in claim 82, wherein said step of allocating further compares said number of counted collectibles with said predetermined number of collectibles.

84. (New) The method of offering for sale collectibles as claimed in claim 83, wherein if said counted number of collectibles exceeds said predetermined number of collectibles, said step of allocating reduces the number of collectibles to be allocated in accordance with a predefined algorithm.

85. (New) The method of offering for sale collectibles as claimed in claim 84, wherein there is further included a step of maintaining a record of the purchasing activity of each purchaser, said algorithm allocating the number of collectibles to one or more purchasers as a direct function of said purchasing activity of the one purchaser.

86. (New) The method of offering for sale collectibles as claimed in claim 77, wherein there is further included the step of providing lots of the collectibles for offering for sale on the primary market.

87. (New) The method of offering for sale collectibles as claimed in claim 86, wherein there is further provided the step of providing collectibles of different kinds, and assembling the collectibles into lots such that each lot of the collectibles are of the same kind.

✓ 88. (New) The method of offering for sale collectibles as claimed in claim 77, wherein there is further provided the step of enabling the one successful purchaser of collectibles on the primary market to elect to have an offering for sale or to facilitate an administrator to hold its purchased collectibles in escrow.

89. (New) The method of offering for sale collectibles as claimed in claim 88, wherein the administrator holds the purchased collectibles of the successful purchasers in a benign environment.

90. (New) The method of offering for sale collectibles as claimed in claim 88, wherein the one successful purchaser elects to offer for sale its purchased collectibles on the secondary market.

91. (New) The method of offering for sale collectibles as claimed in claim 88, wherein the enabling step enables the one successful purchaser to request the administrator to deliver the purchased collectibles to the corresponding one successful purchaser.

92. (New) The method of offering for sale collectibles as claimed in claim 77, wherein there is further included the steps of providing a purchaser history database for keeping a record of each purchaser that has placed an order in the course of said offering for sale on said primary market, and updating data indicative of each collectible and held in escrow in that record of the purchaser holding the escrowed collectible.

93. (New) The method of offering for sale as claimed in claim 77, wherein each of said purchaser's orders received in step b) includes a number of the collectibles wanted by the purchaser.

94. (New) The method of offering for sale as claimed in claim 77, wherein there is further included the step of predefining the number of collectibles before carrying out said step of offering for sale on the primary market.

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95. (New) The method of offering for sale as claimed in claim 94, wherein there is further included the step of providing a purchaser history database for keeping a record for each purchaser that has placed an order in the course of said offering for sale on the primary market, and updating for each order data indicative of said number of collectibles in that record of the purchaser placing that order.

96. (New) A method of facilitating an issuer of collectibles to manage an initial offering for the sale of a limited number of the collectibles of a predetermined condition, said method implemented by a computer programmed to effect the steps of:

a) storing in a memory the determined condition of and the limited number of the collectibles;

b) communicating to potential purchasers a message offering to sell the collectibles and specifying the determined condition and the limited number of collectibles offered for sale;

c) receiving orders from the ordering potential purchasers; and

d) allocating the offered collectibles among selected of the ordering potential purchasers.

97. (New) The method of managing as claimed in claim 96, wherein there is further included the step of creating a record in the memory for each successful purchaser to which collectibles were allocated.

98. (New) The method of managing as claimed in claim 97, wherein said creating step includes the substep of storing the determined condition of the collectibles in the record of its successful purchaser.

99. (New) The method of managing as claimed in claim 96, wherein the collectibles comprise trading cards.

100. (New) The method of managing as claimed in claim 96, wherein the collectibles of the predetermined condition comprise trading cards in mint condition.

101. (New) The method of managing as claimed in claim 96, wherein the collectibles of the predetermined condition comprises uncirculated trading cards.

102. (New) The method of facilitating an issuer of collectibles to manage the initial offering for sale of collectibles of a predetermined condition, said method comprising the steps of:

a) offering for sale the collectibles;

b) allocating selected of the offered collectibles to selected of a plurality of potential purchasers;

c) creating for each of the selected purchasers a record;

d) implementing each of said steps a), b) and c) by a programmed computer;
and

d) maintaining the predetermined condition of the collectibles throughout steps a) to d).

103. (New) The method of managing the offering for sale of collectibles as claimed in claim 102, wherein there is further included a step of storing the predetermined condition of each of the allocated collectibles in its corresponding record.

104. (New) The method of managing the offering for sale of collectibles as claimed in claim 102, wherein the step c) maintains the condition of the collectibles by placing a plurality of the collectibles in a benign environment.

105. (New) The method of managing the offering for sale of collectibles as claimed in claim 102, wherein the step c) maintains the condition of the collectibles by placing at least one of the plurality of collectibles in a protective casing that encloses and protects the condition of the one collectible.

106. (New) The method of managing the offering for sale of collectibles as claimed in claim 105, further including the step of maintaining the condition of the collectibles provides at least one tamper evident casing for receiving at least one collectible.

107. (New) The method of managing the offering for sale of collectibles as claimed in claim 106, wherein step c) further maintains the condition of the collectibles by placing a plurality of the collectibles in a benign environment.

108. (New) The method of managing the offering for sale of collectibles as claimed in claim 107, further including the steps of communicating to at least one of the selected purchasers a message giving the selected purchaser the choice to maintain the condition of the collectibles by placing it either in the protective casing or in the benign environment.

109. (New) The method of managing the offering of collectibles for sale as claimed in claim 108, wherein the message gives the selected purchaser the further choice of offering for sale its allocated collectibles to other purchasers.

110. (New) A server for facilitating an issuer of collectibles to manage an initial offering of the collectibles of a determined condition for sale, said server having a memory and being programmed to:

- a) store the determined condition of the collectibles that are offered for sale;

b) transmit over a network from the server to selected of a plurality of potential purchaser stations an initial offering for a predetermined time of a limited number of the collectibles for sale and bearing an indication of the condition of the collectibles;

c) allocating in response to orders transmitted to the server from the responding purchasers selected of the collectibles among selected of the responding purchasers; and

d) creating a record in the memory for each of the selected purchasers.

111. (New) The server for managing the offering of collectibles of a determined condition for sale as claimed in claim 110, wherein the server is further programmed to facilitate an administrator to maintain at least the limited number of collectibles in the determined condition during the offering for sale of the collectibles, and the message comprises a guarantee made by the administrator that the limited number of collectibles initially offered for sale are of the determined condition indicated by the message.

112. (New) The server for managing the offering of collectibles of a determined condition for sale as claimed in claim 110, wherein the server is further programmed to store the number of the collectibles allocated to a selected purchaser into the record of that purchaser.

113. (New) The server for managing the offering of the collectibles of a determined condition for sale as claimed in claim 110, wherein the server is programmed to receive and process commands from the selected purchasers to which at least one collectible was allocated to place its allocated one collectible for sale to other potential purchasers.

114. (New) The server for managing the offering of the collectibles of a predetermined condition for sale as claimed in claim 113, wherein the server is programmed to receive a command from the one selected purchaser to which the one collectible was allocated to transmit the allocated collectible to the selected purchaser in a protective case, whereby the condition of the allocated collectible is maintained.

115. (New) A method of facilitating an issuer of collectibles to manage the sale and distribution of at least one collectible from a source to at least one purchaser, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) offering the one collectible of a predetermined condition for sale;
- b) effecting the sale of the one collectible of the determined condition to the one purchaser;
- c) receiving a request of the one purchaser to distribute from the source its one sold collectible and responding to the request by encapsulating the one sold collectible, whereby the determined condition of the one sold collectible is continued to be maintained;
- d) maintaining the predetermined condition of the one collectible at least during steps a) and b) until the one collectible is encapsulated, whereby the issuer is enabled to guarantee the condition of the encapsulated collectible;
- e) said steps a) - c) being implemented by a programmed computer; and
- f) distributing the encapsulated collectible from the source.

116. (New) The method of managing the sale and distribution of the one collectible as claimed in claim 115, wherein the step d) of maintaining keeps the plurality of collectibles at the source in a protective environment, whereby their conditions are maintained.

117. (New) The method of managing the sale and distribution of the one collectible as claimed in claim 115, wherein the request of the one purchaser alternatively directs that the one sold collectible be distributed from the source to the one purchaser or the sold collectible be kept in its determined condition at the source.

118. (New) The method of managing the sale and distribution of the one collectible as claimed in claim 117, further including the step of alternatively maintaining the collectibles at the source in a protective environment after the sale of the one collectible or encapsulating the one collectible after its sale, whereby the plurality of collectibles are

maintained at their determined conditions, whether they are kept at the source or distributed to the one purchaser.

119. (New) A method of managing the sale of collectibles on each of a primary market and a secondary market, each of the collectibles being of a predetermined condition, said method comprising the steps of:

a) offering the collectibles of given conditions for sale on the primary market to potential purchasers;

b) facilitating one or more original purchasers to purchase the collectibles of given conditions on the primary market and to offer to a subsequent purchaser at least one purchased collectible of a given condition on the secondary market; and

c) facilitating one or more original or subsequent purchasers to offer for sale on the secondary market one or more sold collectibles to one or more original or subsequent purchasers, said steps a) - c) being implemented by a programmed computer.

120. (New) The method of managing the sale of collectibles on each of the primary and secondary markets as claimed in claim 119, further including a step of determining the predetermined condition of each of the collectibles on sale on the primary market.

121. (New) The method of managing the sale of collectibles on each of the primary and secondary markets as claimed in claim 120, further including the step of maintaining the predetermined condition of the collectibles at a source thereof in a benign environment.

122. (New) The method of managing the sale of collectibles on each of the primary and secondary markets as claimed in claim 121, wherein the step of maintaining keeps the collectibles offered for sale on the source in the primary and secondary markets at the predetermined condition.

123. (New) The method of managing a sale of at least one collectible to at least one original purchaser on a primary market, a resale of the one sold collectible to at least one subsequent purchaser on a secondary market, and keeping track of these sale and resale of

the one collectible respectively to the one original purchaser and to the one subsequent purchaser on a data base, said method comprising the steps of:

a) responding to the sale on the primary market of the one sold collectible to the one original purchaser to create a record in the data base for receiving data identifying the one sold collectible and the one original purchaser who owns the one collectible;

b) responding to the resale on the secondary market of the one resold collectible to the one subsequent purchaser to create a record in the data base for receiving data identifying the one subsequent purchaser of the one resold collectible; and

c) said steps a) and b) being implemented by a programmed computer.

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124. (Added New) The method of managing the sale and resale of the one collectible respectively on the primary and secondary markets as claimed in claim 123, wherein the sale of the one collectible includes the offering of collectibles to potential purchasers and receiving orders from the ordering potential purchasers, and said step a) responds to the receiving of each of the orders of potential purchasers to create a record in the data base for receiving data identifying one of the potential purchasers.

125. (Added New) The method of managing the sale and resale of the one collectible respectively on the primary and secondary markets as claimed in claim 123, further including a step of maintaining the condition of the one collectible.

126. (Added New) The method of managing the sale and resale of the one collectible respectively on the primary and secondary markets as claimed in claim 125, further including a step of maintaining the condition of the one collectible during the sale of the one collectible on the primary market and the resale of the certain collectible on the secondary market.

127. (New) The method of managing the sale and resale of the one collectible respectively on the primary and secondary markets as claimed in claim 125, wherein the step of maintaining the condition maintains the condition of the one collectible.

128. (New) The method of managing the sale and resale of the one collectible respectively of the primary and secondary markets as claimed in claim 127, wherein the step of maintaining keeps the one collectible in a benign environment.

129. (New) The method of managing the sale and resale of the one collectible respectively on the primary and secondary markets as claimed in claim 125, further including a step of receiving and responding to a request of the original purchaser to forward the one sold collectible and to encapsulate the one sold collectible, whereby the condition of the forwarded one collectible is maintained.

130. (New) The method of managing the sale and resale of the one collectible respectively on the primary and second markets as claimed in claim 125, further including a step of receiving and responding to a request of the subsequent purchaser to forward the one resold collectible to the subsequent purchaser and to encapsulate the one resold collectible, whereby the condition of the forwarded one collectible is maintained.

131. (New) A method of managing the initial offering for sale of collectibles, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) keeping the collectibles of a predetermined condition in a protective environment;
- b) initially offering for sale to potential purchasers the collectibles on an initial market;
- c) determining the successful purchasers of the collectibles in the initial market; and
- d) provide each successful purchaser the option to remove its collectibles, in the same predetermined condition, from the protective environment or to continue to keep the collectibles in the protective environment; at least said steps b) - d) being implemented at least in part by a programmed computer.

132. (New) The method of managing as claimed in claim 131, wherein if a successful purchaser opts to remove its collectibles, the collectibles to be removed are disposed in a protective housing.

133. (New) A method of facilitating an issuer of collectibles to manage the sale of at least one collectible from a first purchaser to a second purchaser, said method comprising the steps of

- a) initially determining the condition of the one collectible;
- b) facilitating the first purchaser to offer its one collectible for sale;
- c) constructing a data base with first and second records respectively for the first and second purchasers;
- d) transferring the ownership of the one collectible from the first purchaser to the second purchaser by deleting the one collectible from the first record and adding the one collectible to the second record;
- e) said steps b) - d) being implemented by a programmed computer; and
- f) maintaining the condition of the one collectible at least during the step b), whereby the condition of the collectible sold to the second purchaser may be guaranteed by the issuer to be the initially determined condition.

134. (New) The method of managing the sale of at least one collectible as claimed in claim 133, wherein step f) keeps the one collectible in the benign environment during at least steps b), c) and d).

135. (New) The method of managing the sale of at least one collectible as claimed in claim 134, wherein step d) further transfers the ownership of the one sold collectible from the second purchaser to a third purchaser, and step c) further constructs the data base with a third record for the third purchaser.

136. (New) The method of managing the sale of at least one collectible as claimed in claim 135; wherein step d) further transfers the ownership of the one collectible from the second purchaser to the third purchaser by deleting the one collectible from the second record and adding the one collectible to the third record.

137. (New) A method of facilitating at least one administrator to manage the sale of at least one collectible to at least first and second purchasers on a primary market and a secondary market respectively, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) determining the condition of the one collectible;
- b) facilitating the administrator to introduce the one collectible for sale on the primary market;
- c) effecting the sale of the one collectible on the primary market to the first purchaser;
- d) facilitating the first purchaser to offer for sale the purchased one collectible on the secondary market;
- e) effecting the sale of the one collectible from the first purchaser to the second purchaser on the secondary market;
- f) implementing steps b) - e) by a programmed computer; and
- g) maintaining the condition of the one collectible throughout the primary and secondary markets, whereby the one administrator may guarantee the determined condition of the one collectible to at least the first and second purchasers.

138. (New) The method of facilitating at least one administrator as claimed in claim 137, wherein step f) of maintaining the condition comprises the step of keeping the one collectible in a benign environment.

139. (New) The method of facilitating at least one administrator as claimed in claim 137, wherein step f) comprises the step of encapsulating the one collectible in a protective housing.

140. (New) The method of facilitating at least one administrator as claimed in claim 139, wherein there is a second administrator, the second administrator having a secondary market, and there is further included the step of determining whether the protective housing has been tampered with and, if not, facilitating the second administrator to offer the one

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collectible of the determined condition for sale on the secondary market of the second administrator.

141. (New) The method of facilitating at least one administrator as claimed in claim 139, wherein the one administrator continues to guarantee the condition of the one collectible as long as the protective housing remains in tact.

Please amend the following claims:

34. (Amended) The method of managing an [initial] offering of collectibles as claimed in claim [33] 71, wherein step b) offers an initial offering of collectibles, and there is further included the step of offering for sale selected [certain] of the allocated collectibles on a secondary market at the direction of the purchasers of the [certain] allocated collectibles.

35. (Amended) The method of managing an [initial] offering of collectibles as claimed in claim [33] 71, wherein the collectibles comprise trading cards.

36. (Amended) The method of managing an [initial] offering of collectibles as claimed in claim [34] 71, wherein said [initial] offering of step b) is carried out for a first selected, predetermined period of time.

37. (Twice Amended) The method of managing an [initial] offering of collectibles as claimed in claim 36, wherein said offering for sale on said secondary market is carried out for a second selected period of time.

38. (Twice Amended) The method of managing an [initial] offering of collectibles as claimed in claim 37, wherein said second period of time is greater than said first period of time.

41. (Twice Amended) The method of managing an initial offering of collectibles as claimed in claim [33] 72, wherein if said total number of collectibles exceed the predetermined number of collectibles, said step of allocating reduces the number of collectibles to be allocated to selected of the ordering purchasers in accordance with a predefined algorithm.

44. (Amended) The method of managing an initial offering of collectibles as claimed in claim [33] 72, wherein there is further included the step of providing lots of the collectibles for offering for sale.

47. (Amended) The method of managing an initial offering of collectibles as claimed in claim [33] 72, wherein there is further included the steps of providing a purchaser history database for keeping a record of each purchaser that has placed an order in the course of said initial offering of the collectibles for sale, and updating data indicative of each collectible held in escrow in that record of the purchaser holding the escrowed collectible.

48. (Twice Amended) The method of managing an initial offering of collectibles as claimed in claim [33] 72, wherein there is further included the step of providing a purchaser history database for keeping a record for each purchaser that has placed an order in the course of said initial offering of the collectibles for sale, and updating for each order received data indicative of said number of collectibles in that record of the purchaser placing that order.

49. (Twice Amended) A method of operating a server to receive over a network at least one order for collectibles from at least one [facilitate each] of a plurality of [the] potential purchasers [to transmit over a network at least one order for collectibles to the server], said server being programmed to implement said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing at the server a purchaser history database;
- b) offering for sale an initial placement of a predetermined number of collectibles;
- c) receiving from one of the potential purchasers at least one order for a selected number of collectibles; and
- d) creating in response to the received one [a received] order an account in the purchaser history database for its potential purchaser, each account including a record of the purchasing activity of its potential purchaser.

51. (Twice Amended) The method of operating a server as claimed in claim 50 [77], wherein there is further included the steps of receiving orders from at least one purchaser